

Motor City Missionary Baptist Church Historic District

4453-4493 28th Street.

Alternate name: Gethsemane Evangelical Lutheran Church

Local	v	1/17/01
State	v	
State Marker		
National	v	



Historic overview:

The Motor City Missionary Baptist Church Complex consists of three buildings; the 1891 church, an 1892 rectory and a school that was built in 1926. The complex is located on 28th Street, north of Michigan Avenue.

The church was Gethsemane Evangelical Lutheran Church. Established in 1890 as a subsidiary of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, the congregation was made up of German speaking immigrants. The congregation hired the firm of Spier and Rohns to design a wooden church and rectory for \$2000. Today it is the only known example of a wood church designed by the firm. In 1978 the complex was sold to the Motor City Missionary Baptist Church, organized in 1967 under Rev. John W. Haynes and his wife Inez.

The church is a gable front, wood framed building with central tower and original narrow wooden clapboard. It has a Victorian Gothic feel with five bays of lancet arched stained-glass windows on the side elevations. The church interior has vertical board wainscoting and the walls are covered in cream painted canvas. The rear balcony contains the organ. The color scheme is primarily cream and gold with accents of blue and red. Old wooden pews offer seating. The rectory is a cross-gabled 1 ½-story Queen Anne Victorian Cottage with original white clapboard siding. The school is a two-story, red brick building set back to the north of the church.

The church is individually listed on the state and national registers. The church, school and rectory are locally listed by the City of Detroit.

